GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4026
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2014
PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has fixed any criteria to set up and regulate universities in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has found some deficiencies in the functioning of some universities including Government run universities and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government conducts any periodical review/assessment of the private universities regarding their standard/ quality of education and infrastructure;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the deficiencies noticed in such reviews/ assessments, University-wise; and

(e) whether the Government proposes to bring any regulatory framework to streamline the functioning of the private universities and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a): At present there are 325 State Universities, 196 Private Universities and 128 Deemed Universities in the country. The criteria for the establishment and the functioning of State Universities and State Private Universities are decided by the State Governments concerned as they are established by Acts of State Legislatures. Central Universities are established by an Act of Parliament. Private Universities are regulated by the University Grants Commission (UGC) as per the provisions contained in the UGC (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003.

Institutions Deemed to be Universities are regulated by the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2010 and its Amendment of 2014.

In 2009, the Ministry of Human Resource Development constituted a Committee of eminent academic experts to review the functioning of existing institutions deemed-to- be universities and the desirability of their continuance as such. The Review Committee, on the basis of their evaluation and assessment, reported that while some institutions deemed-to- be universities met the required benchmarks, some others would need some time to do so and yet, some others, numbering 44, owing to deficiencies, did not deserve to continue as institutions Deemed to be Universities. The matter is currently sub-judice in the matter of WP(C) 142 of 2006.

(b) to (d): As of now, the UGC has conducted periodical review of 101 State Private Universities with the help of UGC Expert Committees which include representatives of the concerned Statutory Council(s). The Committees visit the Universities to assess the fulfillment of minimum criteria in terms of programmes, faculty, infrastructural facilities, financial viability, etc as laid down by the UGC and statutory bodies concerned. The Committees have found some deficiencies in the functioning of these Universities broadly related to non-availability of senior faculty and lack of research. After inspection, these reports are placed before the Commission for consideration and the reports are sent to Institutions concerned for rectification of the defects and compliance. The compliance reports of the institutions are then placed before the Commission. University wise deficiencies can be accessed on the UGC website http://www.ugc.ac.in/privatuniversity. aspx#. State funded Universities are inspected by the UGC at the time of considering 12 B status of these Universities. 12 B status is granted only after satisfactory compliance of the deficiencies pointed out by the UGC Expert Committees.

(e): At present, all Private Universities are regulated under the provisions contained in UGC (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003 and their respective State Acts.